

I claim:

- 5       1. A solid dosage form that facilitates swallowing comprising a gelatinous hydrated polymeric matrix, one or more active ingredients and optionally one or more excipients.
2. The solid dosage form of Claim 1 wherein the polymeric matrix is a gel.
- 10       3. The dosage form of Claim 2 wherein the hydrated gel is hydrated type A gelatin with a bloom value from 0 to 250
4. The dosage form of Claim 2 wherein the hydrated gel is hydrated type B gelatin with a bloom value from 0 to 250.
- 15       5. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein the polymeric matrix is an easily hydrated pharmaceutically acceptable polymer.
6. The dosage form of Claim 5 wherein the polymeric matrix is hydroxypropyl  
20       cellulose.
7. The dosage form of Claim 5 wherein the polymeric matrix is hydroxymethyl cellulose.
- 25       8. The dosage form of Claim 5 wherein the polymeric matrix is polyethylene oxide.
9. The dosage form of Claim 5 wherein the polymeric matrix is pectin.
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11. The dosage form of Claim 5 wherein the polymeric matrix is agar.

12. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein an optional excipient is a flavoring agent.
13. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein an optional excipient is a salivation inducing agent.
14. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein an optional excipient is an olfactory agent.
15. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein an optional excipient is a preserving agent.
16. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein an optional excipient is a chemical modifying agent such as pH or solubility.
17. A method of administering an active ingredient to a patient who has a swallowing problem associated with dysphagia comprising administering to the patient a dosage form of Claim 1.
18. A method of administering an active ingredient to a pediatric patient who has swallowing difficulties due to physical disorders such as an underdeveloped or small throat comprising administering to the patient a dosage form of Claim 1.
19. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the active ingredients is a therapeutic chemical, a mineral or vitamin.
20. The dosage form of Claim 19 wherein the therapeutic chemical is a mineral or vitamin are selected from the group comprising: ascorbic acid (vitamin C), calcium carbonate, dl-alpha-tocopherol acetate (vitamin E), magnesium oxide, ferrous fumarate, niacinamide, zinc oxide, calcium pantothenate, pyridoxine HCl (vitamin B6), riboflavin (vitamin B2), thiamin mononitrate (vitamin B1), cupric oxide, vitamin A acetate, vitamin D, beta-carotene,

chromium chloride, biotin, folic acid, potassium iodide, sodium molybdate, sodium selenate, phytonadione (vitamin K1), sodium metavanadate, nickelous sulfate, sodium aluminum silicate, cyanocobalamin (vitamin B12), stannous chloride.

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21. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the active ingredients is an extract from a plant.

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22. The dosage form of Claim 21 wherein the plant is selected from the group comprising: echinacea, Ginseng root extract, Ginkgo Biloba, St. Johns Wort.

23. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the active ingredients is a non-prescription drug.

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24. The dosage form of Claim 23 wherein the non-prescription drug is selected from the group comprising: acetaminophen, captopril, diltiazem, nifedipine, dicyclomine, alprazolam, amitriptyline, clomipramine, propranolol hydrochloride, labetalol, allopurinol, metformin, atenolol, potassium chloride, lithium, levothyroxine sodium, ibuprofen, estrogen, and acetyl salicylic acid.

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25. The dosage form of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the active ingredients is a prescription drug.

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26. The dosage form of Claim 25 wherein the prescription drug has indications is selected from the group comprising: Anemia, Anesthesia, Angina, Angioplasty, Antibiotic, Anti-coagulant, Anti-fungal, Arrhythmia, Cancer, Contraceptive, Cystic Crohn's Disease, Fibrosis, Growth hormone deficiency, Hemophilia, Heart attack, Hepatitis, Macular degeneration, Meningococcal meningitis, Multiple Sclerosis, Pulmonary hypertension, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Thrombosis.

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26. A variably thickened therapeutic agent composition suitable for oral administration to a subject comprising a uniformly distributed biologically

active agent, water and at least one hydrogel-forming component, wherein the composition does not release the biologically active agent in the mouth and that facilitates swallowing.